

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 were pending. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. Claims 9-12 are new. Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,425,551 to Puckett et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a core for supporting a wound sheet roll on a spindle. The core includes set of ribs projecting radially inward from the annular inner surface near the one end and extending between the axial splines. The ribs each have a radially-oriented face arranged to frictionally engage an outer circumferential surface of the spindle.

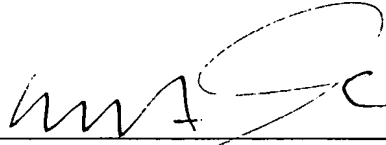
Puckett et al. discloses wedges 38 that are arranged to axially abut the forward end of the spindle. See FIG. 5 of Puckett et al. and the related discussion beginning at line 34 of col. 4. Puckett et al. does not disclose ribs having a radially-oriented face arranged to frictionally engage an outer circumferential surface of the spindle.

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Puckett et al. Claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and so are patentable over Puckett et al. for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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